



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE

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In reply refer to:
6716 (AZ-110)

January 20, 2016

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE WILDLIFE WATER CATCHMENT REDEVELOPMENT

Dear Interested Party:

Please be advised that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared (DOI-BLM-AZ-A010-2016-0004-EA) for the proposed Arizona Strip Field Office Wildlife Water Catchment Redevelopment. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), proposes to redevelop eleven existing water catchments on the Arizona Strip Field Office (ASFO) within AGFD Game Management Units (GMU) 12B, 13A, and 13B. Redeveloping these catchments would ensure that a perennial water source is available for desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*), birds, and other wildlife inhabiting these areas. All eleven catchments are located on BLM-administered land within the ASFO in Mohave and Coconino Counties (see enclosed table and map).

After years of use, the catchments no longer function efficiently for wildlife water needs. Routine inspections have revealed that the existing water catchments function poorly because of age-related deterioration, resulting in inefficient water collection and loss of water through leakage. Additionally, water in the catchments evaporates at a rate faster than can be replenished by rainfall, so water must be hauled to the catchments to maintain a water supply.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan (January 29, 2008) and includes mitigation measures to protect wildlife, cultural, and visual resources.

The findings of the EA will assist BLM in its decision-making process and will help to satisfy federal legal mandates, including the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.

How You Can Participate: The BLM is now identifying issues that should be considered in the EA. The purpose of this letter is invite comments on this proposed project in terms of any issues, resources, or uses that should be considered in preparing this EA, and to learn who is interested in this proposed project and wishes to be informed when the EA may be available for public review and comment.

By law, the names and addresses of those commenting are available for public review during regular business hours. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Interested persons, organizations, and agencies are encouraged to comment on the scope of the analysis of the proposed action, and on specific issues the EA should address. Please submit any scoping comments and/or express interest in receiving notice when the EA is available for public review by February 26, 2016 to:

Shawn Langston
BLM, Arizona Strip Field Office
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790
slangston@blm.gov

Documents relevant to this project will also be posted on the BLM's eplanning home page at: https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do

Based upon the issues identified, the BLM will assess the appropriate level of environmental analysis and documentation. Thank you for your time and continued involvement in public land management in Coconino and Mohave Counties.

If you have questions about this project you may contact Shawn Langston at (435) 688-3239.

Sincerely,

Signed – Jan. 20, 2016

Kevin Schoppmann
Arizona Strip Field Manager (Acting)

Enclosure:
Table and map of the project area

Table 1. Catchment Location Information.

Catchment Name	GMU	Latitude and Longitude	U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute Quadrangle	Elevation (feet)	Township, Range, Section (T, R, S) (Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian)
Buckskin #1	12B	36° 54.658' 112° 9.473'	Buck Pasture Canyon	6,540	T 41N, R 2E, S 35
Buckskin #2	12B	36° 56.642' 112° 8.634'	Buck Pasture Canyon	6,440	T 41N, R 2E, S 23
Hacks #2	13A	36° 32.993' 112° 42.705'	Grama Spring	5,420	T 36N, R 4W, S 3
Hacks #3	13A	36° 32.531' 112° 40.752'	Grama Spring	5,440	T 36N, R 4W, S 12
Kanab Creek	13A	36° 28.835' 112° 41.169'	Kanab Point	5,660	T 36N, R 4W, S 35
S B	13A	36° 25.219' 112° 51.368'	Hitson Tank	5,760	T 35N, R 5W, S 20
Pronghorn	13A	36° 28.111' 112° 55.421'	Hancock Knolls	5,740	T 35N, R 6W, S 3
Saltbush	13A	36° 42.648' 112° 57.771'	Wild Band Pockets	5,160	T 38N, R 6W, S 8
Carroll	13A	36° 30.199' 113° 18.346'	Russell Spring	6,360	T 36N, R 9W, S 19
Low Mountain #1	13B	36° 50.615' 113° 45.317'	Mount Bangs	6,500	T 40N, R 14W, S 25
Little Hurricane Rim	13B	36° 31.453' 113° 24.541'	Little Tanks	5,250	T 36N, R 10W, S 18

Map of the Project Area.

